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So too, probably, is that for Turkey. The entire Balkan campaigns, however, occupy but 152 pages, while the Bulgarian débâcle in September, 1918, is described in fifteen pages. Surely these events are as worthy of a lengthy treatment as, for instance, the visits of the British, French, and Belgian commissions to the United States, which occupy forty-one pages.

Interspersed here and there in the chronological narrative is a chapter on aircraft fighting or a few paragraphs concerning important personalities. Quotations or digests from special articles by favorite war correspondents are frequently included. Throughout the narrative the dramatic military details are emphasized. Indeed the internal political events in the various countries are nearly altogether neglected, except of course the revolutions in Russia, Germany, and Austria-Hungary. In this method of treatment there can be only a feeble attempt to evaluate the significance of the various factors entering into the huge conflict. The account lacks, too, as is natural, the simple direct style of Usher's *Story of the Great War*. Nevertheless it is a comprehensive piece of work well done and extremely well suited to the clientèle to whom it is directed.

The volumes contain a considerable number of the excellent maps familiar to readers of the *Literary Digest*. There are also numerous illustrations showing the nature of the war activities, together with photographs of leading figures in the war.

GEORGE F. ZOOK.

Third Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records. (London: Stationery Office. 1919. Pp. v, 46; iv, 131; viii, 111. 12 sh. 9 d.)

IN 1919 Sir Frederick Pollock, Professor Firth, Dr. M. R. James, Sir Frederic Kenyon, Sir Sidney Lee, Mr. H. R. Tedder, and three representatives of Wales were appointed a Royal Commission on Public Records. Aided with great energy and devotion by Mr. Hubert Hall as secretary, the commission has pursued its inquiries with great intelligence in many hearings, and has supplemented these, as thoroughness so often requires, by scores of personal inspections on the part of its members. Their first report, dealing with the Public Record Office, was published in 1912, and briefly noticed in these pages (XVIII. 419). The second, dealing with such records of the courts of justice and papers of public departments as had not yet been transferred to the Public Record Office, was published in 1914 (XX. 455). Both were accompanied by valuable appendixes containing much useful information on archives, specially prepared by expert persons, and each had a further appendix containing the minutes of evidence taken at the hearings. The present report has similar appendixes, one of documents, amplifying the report, the other of minutes of evidence. In all these hearings, it is impossible not to admire the skillful questioning of Sir

Frederick Pollock and his associates, so directed as to elicit full information on all the points that should be covered. Compare it with any of the hearings before one of our senatorial committees, with its inept, casual, unintelligent, unfair, and uncivil questioning, and one cannot fail to be impressed with the superiority of that method of gathering information which consists in entrusting technical inquiries to technical experts.

After the securing of the expert advice, however, there remains, on whichever side of the water, much the same difficulty in getting legislative or executive authorities to make the reforms recommended. Little of the commission's programme of intelligent suggestions for improvement—in respect to the training of archivists, to better advantages for investigators, to the custody and care of departmental records and their systematic transfer to the Public Record Office, or to the appointment of a permanent board for record publications (such as all countries but Great Britain and the United States have instituted)—had been carried into effect when the Great War came. The war naturally put a stop to nearly all progress, and no one can be sure what steps of improvement the nation can now afford. Nevertheless, the members of the commission have courageously gone forward to shape their third report, and Mr. Hall has, mostly without compensation, they tell us, continued his labors of inquiry and completed the volume.

The theme of this third report and volume is the difficult subject of local archives and local records. A committee appointed in 1899 made a useful report on this subject in 1902, but the present commission has taken a broader survey and furnished more comprehensive information. Its report embraces records of local courts, of counties, towns, parishes, diocesan records of bishops, deans and chapters, archdeacons, and records of many less familiar local institutions. On the nature and contents of all such varieties of records, their custody, repair, and arrangement, their destruction and dispersion, and their public use, the report is a mine of information. An added section treats of departmental records relating to the war.

"English local government", runs the classical statement, "is a chaos of areas, a chaos of authorities, and a chaos of rates", and English local records reflect the chaos, with a fresh chaos added for each successive century. The situation is therefore most bewildering, and it is a great credit to Mr. Hall that he has kept his head through it all, and has pushed steadily and systematically toward a systematic and practical series of reforms. The commission's recommendations emphasize the necessity of providing for better preservation, better administration, and more convenient public use, by concentrating local records, not in London but in county or regional repositories built for the purpose, and under control or inspection by the Public Record Office. Resistance by Beadledom is to be expected, but the example of Continental countries is too cogent to be ignored. Even from the United States

argument can be drawn, for primitive as is the archive-system (or lack of system) of the federal government, many of our states and a few of our counties and cities have made excellent arrangements. We must wish that this remarkable report, and its predecessors, may receive from the new England emerging from the war a most attentive consideration. The present situation, what with losses and confusion and parochialism, is certainly deplorable. The reforms the commission suggests are rational, urgently needed, moderate, and practical. And every notable step forward in one country helps other countries to methodize their archival systems and to substitute order, security, and historical use for chaos, destruction, and neglect.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities. Part I. *Introductory: The Lithic Industries.* By W. H. HOLMES. [Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 60.] (Washington: Smithsonian Institution. 1919. Pp. xvii, 380.)

STUDENTS of prehistoric anthropology have looked forward with keen anticipation to the publication of the series upon which Professor William H. Holmes has labored for many years. After perusal of the 380 pages of this volume the reader may safely assume that few students will be disappointed. In scope, in method of treatment, in the amount of material presented, the volume leaves little to be desired. Philosophic in tone, it is on a higher plane than any previous publication relating to the lithic industries. Professor Holmes's style is always above praise, and in this latest masterpiece there is no diminution of the sustained literary quality manifested on each page, from first to last. He begins, very properly, with the general anthropological classification of his former chief (Powell), now accepted everywhere. Under this skeleton outline he marshals his sub-divisions and proceeds with his treatise upon each in orderly fashion.

Holmes was long keenly interested in geology, and under that section devoted to chronology, he permits himself full sway with reference to the occupation of the American continent by man in tertiary, or even pleistocene times.

Chapter IX. relates to cultural areas. Number I., the North Atlantic area, may possibly be again sub-divided, since Maine archaeological studies indicate the presence of an extinct tribe, whose artifacts are quite different from those of peoples occupying the area between Charleston, South Carolina, and the mouth of the Connecticut.

From page 159 to the end of the volume, there is afforded us a very complete and technical study of quarrying and the manufacturing of implements. Much of this is new; yet there is a considerable amount of published material included. These pages evince careful research and study.